

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13-22 without prejudice.

Please add claim 23 as indicated below.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-23 in the present patent application is provided below.

1 (Previously Presented). A device for recognizing a locked condition of a seat belt buckle, the device comprising:

a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by realizing a change in inductance based upon a position of an inductance-altering activating component without using a magnet.

2 (Original). The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor is arranged by a multi-turn conductor loop.

3 (Original). The device of claim 2, wherein the conductor loop is applied on a printed circuit.

4 (Original). The device of claim 2, wherein the conductor loop is planar.

5 (Previously Presented). The device of claim 1, further

comprising:

an evaluation circuit which comprises an oscillator circuit.

6 (Original). The device of claim 5, wherein the oscillator circuit further comprises:

a differentiating circuit for the recognition of oscillation.

7 (Original). The device of claim 5, wherein the oscillator circuit is evaluated by a micro-controller.

8 (Original). The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a leaf spring manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.

9 (Original). The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor is part of a voltage transmission circuit.

10 (Original). The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a switching controller for the recognition of a voltage.

11 (Previously Presented). A seat belt buckle comprising:

a seat belt buckle carrier;

a seat belt buckle tongue;

an ejector;

a locking component; and

a device for recognizing a locked condition of the seat belt buckle comprising a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by realizing a change in inductance based upon a position of an inductance-altering activating component without using a magnet.

12 (Original). The seat belt buckle of claim 11, wherein the seat belt buckle tongue is manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.

13-22 (Cancelled).

23 (New). A device for recognizing a locked condition of a seat belt buckle, the device comprising:

a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by realizing a change in inductance based upon

a position of an inductance altering activating component without using a magnet; and

an evaluation circuit which comprises an oscillator circuit, wherein the oscillator circuit comprises a differentiating circuit for the recognition of oscillation.